

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

**DATE:** April 28, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on April 21, 2000

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Response (Plastic Fire), Helt Enterprise Fire, Uniontown, Indiana**

On April 13, 2000, at the request of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Steve Renninger, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START), and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) responded to a plastic fire at the Helt Enterprises recycling facility in Uniontown, Indiana. IDEM reported that the fire had been burning since the previous day and attempts by the local fire department to extinguish the fire utilizing foam were unsuccessful. U.S. EPA responded and conducted real-time air monitoring utilizing a field gas chromatograph to determine that low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were being emitted from the fire and that residential shelter in-place procedures were appropriate for nearby residents during the fire. U.S. EPA emergency contractors were mobilized to the fire on April 13, 2000, and the fire was extinguished within 6 hours by capping the area with clay to smother the fire. Approximately 600 cubic yards of onsite clay was used to cap the fire area utilizing heavy equipment

to rapidly move the clay over the 1/4-acre fire area, which contained bailed plastic. IDEM will follow-up with the property owner on the solid waste disposal of the material involved in the fire.

Contact: Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

**Site Visit, Genoil, Inc. Oil Site, Springfield, Illinois**

On April 5, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl; a representative from the Field Services Section; and, representatives from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Illinois DNR) met at the Genoil site in Springfield, Illinois. One of the purposes of the visit was to evaluate the possible use of geophysical methods to determine the size of a buried pit from which oil oozed up onto the ground. Another purpose for the visit was to evaluate whether the oozed up oil from the pit threatened Horse Creek. (The National Pollution Funds Center had already determined that the site is not eligible for Oil Pollution Act funding based on a threat to Hunter Lake, which is a proposed water supply for the City of Springfield.)

In addition to visiting the Genoil site, OSC Karen Vendl determined from the Illinois DNR officials that 2 sites that had been identified through the Problem Oil Pits (POPs) program, had been cleaned up and no longer present any threat to a navigable waterway.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**Vermiculite Visits, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

On-Scene Coordinator Leonard Zintak, Toxicologist Mark Johnson, and Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete conducted several site visits at various Minneapolis vermiculite sites. The visits included taking soil samples and talking to nearby residents.

On April 13, 2000, a northeast Minneapolis community meeting was conducted by Minneapolis officials. Health and

environmental experts, including U.S. EPA representatives Len Zintak and Mark Johnson gave presentations on vermiculite. Their multi-agency approach created a better understanding of each agency's role. Over 75 residents were in attendance, as well as television, radio, and newspapers. An article was published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune regarding the meeting.

Contacts: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)  
Stuart Hill (312-886-0689)  
Len Zintak (312-886-4246)  
Mark Johnson (312-353-9298)

### TRAINING/CONFERENCES

#### Discussion (University of Wisconsin at Whitewater), City Disposal Corporation Landfill Superfund Site, Dunn, Wisconsin

U.S. EPA Region 5, Superfund Division, received a request from students at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, Wisconsin, to discuss with them general Superfund principles and specific progress at the nearby City Disposal Corporation Landfill (CDCL) Superfund site in Dunn, Wisconsin. On April 13, 2000, the Remedial Project Manager for the site, Russell Hart, was joined by Mike Peterson of Waste Management (a site potential responsible party) in addressing approximately 30 members of the University's chemistry, biology, and geology clubs. Topics discussed included origins of the Superfund statute; primary reasons why the CDCL site was placed on the National Priorities List; a summary of site investigation, remedy selection, and design work; source control measures already undertaken; status of groundwater treatment works now under construction; and, new trends in landfill design and management.

Contact: Russell Hart (312-886-4844)

#### Contracting Officer Representative Mentor Training, Chicago, Illinois

On April 17-19, 2000, sessions were conducted for completion of the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) Mentor Training. A total of 41 Removal staff successfully completed the course, which was facilitated by the Removal Project

Officers (Gail Nabasny, Lorraine Kosik, and Carl Norman). This is a training requirement that must be completed by all CORs by October 1, 2001. It is recommended that On-Scene Coordinators complete this course prior to Warrant Officer Training, which will be offered this summer.

Contacts: William Messenger (312-353-1057)  
Gail Nabasny (312-353-1056)

**First Responder, Awareness Level Course, Melrose Park, Illinois**

On April 15, 2000, the Melrose Park Emergency Services Public Safety Department sponsored the First Responder, Awareness Level course. This was the second time this organization hosted the course (the first time being in March 1998). Glenn Cekus (Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention) and Bill Sass of the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) provided the instruction. Another START member, Erin White, assisted in the course presentations and will likely be a future instructor. Although only seven participants attended, their enthusiasm and interest were exceptional, and all successfully completed the course.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

**Eastern Wisconsin Area Committee Meeting, Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO)-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On April 12, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl attended the Eastern Wisconsin Area Committee meeting at the Coast Guard offices in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. These meetings are held quarterly and include representatives from the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, County emergency governments, municipal fire departments, and others whose area of concern is the Lake Michigan coastal area of Wisconsin. Among the topics discussed were the new Incident Command System format for Coast Guard Area Contingency Plans, and the upcoming Preparedness Response Exercise Program industry-led exercise which is scheduled to be held in 2002. OSC Karen Vendl volunteered to participate as a member of the design team.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

**Joint Information Training/Annual Hazardous Materials 2000  
Spills Prevention Conference, St. Louis, Missouri**

On April 6, 2000, Ginny Narsete, Emergency Response Public Affairs Specialist, gave a presentation at the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Spills Prevention Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's conference was hosted by U.S. EPA Region 7. Ginny Narsete and the U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Specialist, gave a presentation on the Joint Information Center program that received final approval in January 2000. A wide variety of sessions were offered throughout the week, including seminars and a mock exercise. In addition, 43 booths were displayed during the conference. The exhibitors provided information on their products, such as technologies and services offered.

Contact: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

**Department of Transportation Annual Emergency Support Function  
1 Training, Chicago, Illinois**

On April 17-18, 2000, the Department of Transportation Annual Emergency Support Function 1 Training was held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 (FEMA5) Regional Operations Center (ROC) in Chicago. Glenn Cekus (Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention) participated and represented U.S. EPA Region 5. Approximately 35 students, primarily Department of Transportation (DOT) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) personnel, attended the training, which was moderated by Jeff McSpaden, the DOT5 Regional Emergency Transportation Representative (RETREP). Instruction focused upon DOT's role as the Federal Response Plan (FRP) Emergency Support Function 1 (ESF 1), Transportation, lead agency. Several useful presentations were made by DOT instructors and hands-on training in the use of DOT's Activation Information Management (AIM) System software was provided, using the personal computers in the FEMA5 ROC. U.S. EPA was described by Mr. McSpaden as being a strong supporter of the FRP and active participant in FRP operations.

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cc: Steve Herman (OECA)  
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Tim Fields (OSWER)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
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ORA State Coordinators  
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